

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for February 18th, 2025

David Berg called the meeting to order on February 18th, 2025 at 7:04pm

Present: Tor Berg (p), David Berg (v), Rob Baker (v), Sandy Flying Cloud (p), Noah Berg (v), Jacky Schnarre (p), Ho Brown (v), Paul Flatness (v), Kristi Pyne (v)

Absent: Emily Curcio, Kendahl Adjorlolo, Kae Peterson, Joyce Thode, David Shogren, Christy Freriks

Quorum was met.

Guests: Tom Payne (v)

Pastor Tor gave devotions from Jeremiah 5:7, underscoring the communal and national significance of sin and emphasizing that collective disobedience leads to inevitable repercussions. We should also acknowledging that Jesus would have asked us to love our neighbors. Noting words of scripture may contend with others, leading to mixed signals of retribution and peace. A discussion followed sharing thoughts about what peace looks like, who God wants us to be, and the importance of empathy.

Pastor Tor provided the opening prayer.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

The minutes from the January 21st, 2025 council meeting were discussed.

- 1 Ho asked for a correction, under Old Business, item a. Pastor was referring to the City's 102nd AVE NE downtown access improvement to widen the street, not the permanent change in the alley direction.
- 2 The minutes were approved with the noted changes.

Tom Payne presented the Continuing Resolution (CR) Review on Christian Education.

- 1 Tor asked and Tom stated no changes were required and requested continued feedback from council.
- 2 Ho reminded those present that, in the last meeting, Council agreed to include an additional sentence in every CR reading, "endeavor to attend to congregation social statements and policies in decision making". A recommendation was made to include this additional sentence to the CR.
- 3 Tor asked for all to agree, moving forward, to ensure this content is automatically included in every CR. Tom left the meeting.

Pastor Berg's Report

- 1 Baptism last Sunday, another this week. Seeing new faces in church, "which is exciting!" We're thankful that God is bringing new people into our community, reminding all to continue to help make FLC a welcoming place to be. Two neurodivergent people visited, one voicing they felt welcomed.
- 2 The Bishop met with Cascadia Cluster last week, notifying all in attendance that written records are required. Digital records do not meet legal requirements. FLC is 10 years behind on handwritten records. While considered a large effort, missing written records need to be handwritten. Moving forward both digital and written are to be handwritten and maintained by the Pastor as per our Constitution *C9.12a. The Council will request status on the effort in future meetings.
- 3 Preschool enrollment is better than last year.
- 4 A few deaths were reported and one funeral is pending.

Committee Business

- 1 Worship and Music
 - 1.1 Survey results received, results are to be published within the week.
 - 1.2 Key statistics to share:
 - 1.2.1 Over 70% were over 70 years in age.
 - 1.2.2 Over 68% liked having a 9:30AM worship.
 - 1.2.3 Further analysis of the survey results is required to use the data effectively.
- 2 Social Ministries: RIC Task Force
 - 2.1 This committee remains in the assembly process.
- 3 Building and Property: Road Construction/Alley

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- 3.1 The road construction has started in earnest.
- 3.2 Be cautious of road closures.
- 3.3 Reports of noise (rumbling) as asphalt is being removed.
- 4 Stewardship: Time and Talent Survey
 - 4.1 No update at this time.
- 5 Audit Committee
 - 5.1 No update at this time.
- 6 Personnel: Pastor Survey
 - 6.1 The committee met the week of February 10th, 2025.
 - 6.2 The survey was last performed in 2012, with two people completing the summary, then sharing with the Pastor.
 - 6.3 During this 2025 cycle all committee members (5) will review the data then collaborate to produce the summary. The summary and supporting (raw) data will be presented to the council before sharing with the pastor. A special meeting will be held for this purpose to not interrupt regular business. A comparison activity utilizing 2012 and 2025 data may be possible.

Old Business

- 1 Council Liaison List
 - 1.1 Noah Berg and Rob Baker are assigned to the IT Committee.
 - 1.2 Paul Flatness is assigned to Social Ministries Committee.
 - 1.3 Absent council members will select a committee when present.
- 2 Coffee with Council
 - 2.1 The recommendation is move to a longer cadence, rebrand into another name, then host on May 18th, 2025 following adult education.
 - 2.2 Until an official name is determined it will be referred to as "Council Progress Report".
- 3 Spotlight on Volunteers: revamp
 - 3.1 Discussion on how to highlight individuals providing service, including all.
 - 3.2 The council expressed a desire to be sensitive to the recipients throughout the spotlight process.
 - 3.3 The council will revisit this discussion at the next meeting to allow time for personal reflection.
- 4 Council Member Call List
 - 4.1 Kristin Smith will create a list of members in need of attention. Joyce Thode will divide the list equally by 14 among the council members for direct engagement.
 - 4.2 Engagement and ongoing support to those on the list will be uniquely defined by the responsible council member.
 - 4.3 Rob will ask Rene' Baker to lead a Sunday School activity, creating greeting cards for this program.

New Business

- 1 Immigration Training
 - 1.1 FLC has been asked by a Bothell council member to host a one-time rapid response training program from the Washington Immigration Support Network.
 - 1.2 FLC is a good location for this training as...
 - 1.2.1 A private space is needed for this training, allowing for public access, but with private property rights to trespass. Public spaces would not allow people with bad intentions to be removed from the site.
 - 1.2.2 Our building is ADA accessible.
 - 1.2.3 The police department is next door.
 - 1.2.4 The FLC building is near the freeway.
 - 1.3 FLC would need to work in concert with the City of Bothell and the police department.
 - 1.4 This provides a partnership opportunity between FLC and the City of Bothell.
 - 1.5 While there are questions, the council voted to find out more about the program.
 - 1.6 The Pastor, via email, will keep the Council informed of progress and discussions with the City.

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In Closing

- 1 The next council meeting is scheduled for March 18th, 2025 at 7:00PM.
- 2 No additional action items, adjourned at 7:56PM.